

9106 Watson Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910
April 19, 1999

9 8 7 9 '99 APR 22 A9:59

Lyle D. Jaffe
Dockets Management
FDA/DHHS
12420 Parklawn Dr., Rm 1-23
Rockville, MD 20857

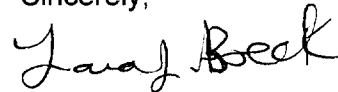
Re: **Docket 98P-0203/CP**

Dear Mr. Jaffe,

I am writing to voice my support for the petition to ban the forced molting of layer hens. I recently was informed about this horribly cruel practice, and am truly sickened by the extent of the abuse that pervades the animal foods industry. These hens (warm-blooded creatures with complex nervous systems sensitive to pain) are tricked into laying more eggs than they naturally would by being deprived of food and water and kept in total darkness for extended periods of time. Forced moltings throw hens' systems into collapse, stressing and shocking them into losing their feathers and forcing their worn-out bodies into a new laying cycle.

Research shows that this hideous process is a major cause of salmonella poisoning in eggs, since the bird's immune systems are weakened so badly. Forced molting is so cruel that it was banned in Great Britain in 1987. Most European countries do not allow food deprivation for more than 24 hours, yet no laws protect these birds in America. We should be ashamed of ourselves as a nation - what a distinction to be less humane than the Europeans. I avoid purchasing factory-farm produced animal foods, choosing products from free-range/non-drugged animals instead and consuming only small amounts. I am disgusted by what is done in this country in the name of greed. The FDA should lend full support to increasing compassion and decency in our treatment of farm animals. Humanely raised animals are healthier, and that benefits consumers both by decreasing contamination and increasing nutritional content of foods.

Sincerely,

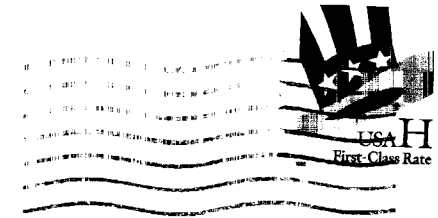
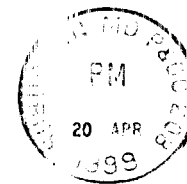


Mrs. Lara Boeck

98P-0203

C 1132

Lara J. Boeck
9106 Watson Rd.
Silver Spring, MD 20910-4134



Lyle D. Taffe
Dockets Management
FDA / OHHHS
Rockville, MD 20857

